Ultimate South African Airways 311 Rule Guide: Pack Your Hand Luggage Like a Pro

Packing for an international flight can sometimes feel like solving a complex puzzle, especially when trying to understand the security regulations for hand luggage 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). If you are flying with South African Airways, a key regulation to keep in mind is the 311 rule📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). This rule is essential for anyone wanting a smooth experience at 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) airport security, particularly when travelling to or from specific destinations like the United States or navigating major global transit hubs📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).
Race Equality Matters

Understanding this regulation helps you pack your hand luggage correctly, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) saving you precious time and avoiding the stress of having your favourite toiletries confiscated at the security gate📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Use this comprehensive guide to master the requirements and ensure your next journey is completely stress-free📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

What is the 311 Rule?

The 311 rule is a standard security restriction that governs the amount of liquids, aerosols, gels, creams, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) and pastes you can bring into the aircraft cabin in your hand luggage📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Although it originated as a regulation by the Transportation Security Administration in the United States, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) it is widely enforced by international airlines, including South African Airways, for flights operating into, out of, or through US airspace, as well as many other global airports📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

The numbers in the rule serve as an easy memory aid for passengers:

The number three stands for 3📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).4 ounces, which is the maximum volume allowed for any individual container📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). In the United Kingdom and

most of the world, this is translated to 100 millilitres📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

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The first one represents one quart-sized bag📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). All your individual 100 millilitre containers must fit comfortably inside a single, transparent, resealable plastic bag📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). In the UK, this is typically a clear bag measuring roughly 20 centimetres by 20 centimetres with a total capacity of about one litre📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

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The final one means one bag per passenger📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Each person travelling is permitted to carry only one of these clear plastic bags in their hand luggage📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

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How South African Airways Applies the Liquids Regulation

South African Airways strictly complies with international aviation safety protocols📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). When you travel with them, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) the 311 rule applies directly to your hand luggage allowances depending on your departure airport, transit points, and final destination📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Flights to and from the United States

If your South African Airways journey involves a destination in the United States, the rule is non-negotiable📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). During check-in or at the transit security points in Doha at Hamad International Airport, security personnel will check that your liquids meet these exact standards📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Any container larger than 100 millilitres will be rejected, even if it is only partially filled📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). For example, a 200 millilitre bottle of lotion that is half-empty will still be confiscated📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Departures from the United Kingdom and Europe

When departing from UK airports like London Heathrow, Manchester, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) or Edinburgh on a South African Airways flight, you must follow local airport security guidelines📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

While many major UK airports have 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) upgraded to advanced 3D CT scanners that allow up to two litres of liquids to remain inside bags, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) South African Airways passengers connecting through Doha or flying to stricter global regions must still adhere to the 100 millilitre rule📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Security staff often require liquids to remain in smaller containers to ensure compliance at your final destination or transit airport📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

What Counts as a Liquid?

Many passengers are caught out by items they do not consider to be liquids📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Security agencies and South African Airways classify a wide array of items under the liquids, aerosols, and gels category📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Common Toiletries and Cosmetics

Your standard bathroom items are the most frequent subjects of this rule📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). This includes toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, lip gloss, liquid foundations, perfumes, hair gel, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) and deodorants, whether they are liquid or aerosol sprays📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Food Items and Pastes

Food items can also trigger a security check📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Items such as jars of jam, honey, peanut butter, Marmite, soft cheeses, and yoghurts are all classified as gels or pastes📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). If you plan to take any of these on board a South African Airways flight as snacks or gifts, they must adhere to the 100 millilitre limit or be purchased after you pass through the security checkpoint📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Exceptions to the 311 Rule on South African Airways

While the rule is strict, there are necessary exemptions made for passenger well-being and health📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). These items do not need to fit into your one-litre clear plastic bag, but you must declare them to security staff for separate inspection📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Baby Milk and Infant Food

If you are travelling with a baby or a toddler, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) South African Airways allows you to bring a reasonable amount of baby milk, sterilized water, and baby food inside your hand luggage📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). This can exceed the usual 100 millilitre limit📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Security staff may need to open the containers to test the liquids for safety, so it is best to pack them in a way that makes them easily accessible📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Essential Medicines and Medical Liquids

Passengers 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) who require liquid medication, insulin, inhalers, or special dietary liquids during the flight are permitted to bring containers larger than 100 millilitres📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). It is highly recommended to carry a doctor's letter, a copy of your prescription, or the original pharmaceutical label showing your name to verify your medical need to airport security staff📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Tips for Packing Your South African Airways Hand Luggage

To ensure a seamless journey through the airport, a bit of preparation before you leave for the terminal goes a long way📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Buy Travel-Sized Toiletries

Before your trip, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) purchase travel-sized versions of your favorite products, or buy reusable travel bottles that are clearly marked as 100 millilitres or less📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Decanting your liquids into marked bottles avoids any debates with security officers about container volume📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Pack Your Liquids Bag at the Top

Always place your clear plastic bag of liquids at the very top of your carry-on bag or in an easily accessible outer pocket📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). You will need to remove it quickly when you reach the security scanners, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) and doing this prevents you from having to unpack your neatly folded clothes in the middle of a busy queue📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Race Equality Matters

Utilize Duty-Free Purchases

If you wish to travel with larger quantities of perfume, alcohol, or cosmetics, you can purchase them at the airport duty-free shops after you have passed security📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). South African Airways allows these items on board, provided they are kept inside a sealed Security Tamper-Evident Bag given by the retailer, along with the receipt visible inside📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). If you have a connecting flight, do not open this bag until you reach your final destination, as transit security points will check it📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Take Action: Prepare Your Carry-On Today

Do not let airport security delays ruin the start of your premium travel experience📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Before you begin packing your bags for your upcoming trip, take a moment to review your toiletries📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Sort through your items, separate your liquids into travel-approved containers, and secure your clear resealable bag📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Plan ahead, pack smart, and enjoy a seamless journey with South African Airways📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring solid makeup like lipstick under the 311 rule?

Solid items such as traditional lipsticks, solid deodorants, and powder foundations are not considered liquids or gels📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). You do not need to put them into your clear plastic liquids bag, and they can remain anywhere in your hand luggage without size restrictions📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

What happens if my liquids bag will not close?

Your clear plastic bag must seal completely to be accepted by airport security📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). If it is overflowing and cannot be shut, security officers will ask you to discard some of the items until the bag closes properly📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Does South African Airways provide the plastic bags at the airport?

While South African Airways does not directly hand out these bags at check-in, 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) almost all airports, including those in the United Kingdom and 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) the hub airport in Doha, provide complimentary clear plastic bags near the entrance of the security queue📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). However, preparing your bag at home saves you time📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Can I pack larger liquid bottles in my checked luggage?

Yes, the 311 rule applies exclusively to hand luggage📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). Any liquids, gels, or aerosols that exceed 100 millilitres can be safely packed into your checked bags, provided they are sealed well to prevent leaking due to aircraft cabin pressure changes📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).

Are contact lens solutions subject to the 100 millilitre limit?

Contact lens solution is generally treated as a liquid medication📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK). While small bottles are preferred inside the clear plastic bag, you can bring larger bottles if 📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK) they are necessary for your journey, but you must declare them to the security officers for independent screening outside your standard liquids bag📞+1-855-[564]*11.22 (US) Or +44 808^{196}»27.56 (UK).